

## Material Sites

### Goal

**Land for State-Owned Materials Sites.** Maintain in state ownership and make available to public and private users sufficient, suitably located materials sites to economically meet long-term economic needs of the area for material resources.

### Management Guidelines

**A. Preferred Material Sites<sup>6</sup>.** When responding to a request for a material sale or identifying a source for materials, the highest priority should be given to using existing material sources. Using materials from wetlands or lakes should be avoided unless no feasible public upland alternative exists. As a general policy, sales or permits for gravel extraction should only be permitted in known fish spawning areas or within 100 feet of known spawning areas with ADF&G approval. Material sites shall be maintained in public ownership unless the management intent language for a specific management unit indicates that it may be appropriate for alternative uses. To minimize construction and maintenance cost of transportation facilities, material sites should be located as near as is feasible to where the material will be used<sup>7</sup>.

**B. Maintaining Other Uses and Resources When Siting, Operating or Closing Material Sites.** The disposal of materials should be consistent with the applicable management intent statement and management guidelines of the plan. In some instances, areas occupied by a material site may be appropriate for reuse for settlement or another form of development. When this occurs, this is noted in the ‘management intent’ of the affected unit and reuse of the parcel for the intended use is appropriate. If this occurs, the reclamation plan shall take this into consideration and not preclude possible reuse.

**C. Land Sales in Areas of High Material Potential.** Generally, if a settlement area contains sand and gravel deposits, rock sources or other similar, high value material resources, a material source area should be identified during subdivision design and retained in state ownership for future use.

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<sup>6</sup> Material sites are the sites where materials are developed. They are generally located within or near transportation corridors.

<sup>7</sup> Consultation of the following reference is advised: North Slope Gravel Pit Performance Guidelines. McLean, R.F. 1993. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat and Restoration Division, Juneau, AK, Technical Report No. 93-9, 97 pp. Document available for download at [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/pdfs/habitat/93\\_09.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/pdfs/habitat/93_09.pdf)

1 **D. Avoidance or Minimization of Impacts.** Material extraction sites are to be sited so that  
2 they avoid or minimize impacts, including but not limited to noise and dust, to adjacent  
3 residential or institutional areas (i.e., schools).  
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5 **E. Screening and Rehabilitation.** Where topographic and vegetation allow, material sites  
6 should be screened from roads, residential areas, recreational areas, and other areas of  
7 significant human use. Sufficient land should be allocated to the material site to allow for  
8 such screening. Material extraction sites adjacent to the Parks Highway shall provide a  
9 vegetation buffer of 75' or more. Rehabilitation of the site shall follow the requirements of  
10 AS 27.19.020 and 11 AAC 97.250.  
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12 **F. Protection Area Adjacent to Anadromous or High Value Resident Fish**  
13 **Waterbodies.** Where topography and vegetation allow, a riparian buffer of at least 100'  
14 shall be provided adjacent to anadromous waterbodies. The adjudicator is to review the  
15 DMLW on-line procedures pertinent to riparian buffers and Management Guidelines B, D, E  
16 and H in the 'Shorelands and Stream Corridors' section of this chapter prior to issuing an  
17 authorization or disposing of an interest in state land to determine the amount of area to  
18 protect and the type of management stipulation to impose.  
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20 **G. Coordination with Boroughs.** Prior to granting authorizations for material sales, the  
21 DNR should coordinate with the North Star and Denali Boroughs to determine applicable  
22 local land use requirements.  
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24 **H. Development of Material Sites.** Materials sites are surface resources that occur in  
25 specific geologic locations. It is recognized that the use and development of material  
26 resources will create some level and area of impact. Nonetheless, the state may determine  
27 that the development of material resources is appropriate, with appropriate stipulations. It is  
28 also recognized that the development of specific material resources may take precedence  
29 over surface uses. Material sites are necessary to and are a type of use that is often  
30 associated with the construction and maintenance of roads, and therefore an essential  
31 component of the road construction process. They may also provide access to other state  
32 resources, such as forest stands in the Tanana Valley State Forest. The provision of access to  
33 forest resources is appropriate if not in conflict with material extraction activities.  
34

35 **I. Management of Material Sites Near Critical Infrastructure.** Construction materials  
36 resources are required for the development, maintenance, and expansion of critical  
37 infrastructure including roads, pipelines, airports, businesses, residences, utilities,  
38 communication facilities, and similar types of projects. Transport of materials over any  
39 significant distance (e.g., more than 1000 feet from an existing road) quickly makes their use  
40 cost prohibitive, and therefore lack of materials sites within a reasonable distance from  
41 projects effectively prevents maintenance and development activities that are necessary  
42 and/or desirable. Recognizing the critical need for construction materials resources wherever  
43 infrastructure is present or planned, generalized management for materials resources is  
44 appropriate and encouraged within 1000 feet of existing and planned infrastructure to  
45 facilitate appropriate development and maintenance activities.

1 Consideration should be given to the identification of material sites near such projects.  
2 Because of the importance of such sites, their siting is appropriate within areas designated  
3 Settlement, Resource Management, and Agriculture and may, with mitigation requirements,  
4 be appropriate in areas designated Habitat, Public Recreation, or Water Resources. See  
5 Management Guideline R, Protection of Resources and Balancing of Impacts from Potential  
6 Development, in Chapter 2. This management guideline is also applicable to the  
7 development of material extraction sites.

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9 **J. Other Guidelines Affecting Materials.** Other guidelines will affect the use of material  
10 resources. See other sections of this chapter.

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